

REMARKS

The examiner has maintained the rejection of the independent claims (29, 30, 31) under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gehani (US 5946687). The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The independent claims have been amended to narrow them to the use of electronic mail communication for updating and synchronizing non-email databases such as personal information databases (reference to "text messages" for updates has been deleted from the claims). The inventors conceived of using electronic mail communication to update or synchronize non-email databases (e.g., personal information and inventory databases) that would customarily be updated using standard network data transfers (e.g., TCP/IP network connections). For example, with the invention, an update being sent from a server personal information database to a remote personal information database is first sent to a server messaging application, where an electronic mail is formed containing the update; the message is then addressed to a remote messaging application on a remote computer, where the update data is extracted from the message. The claims have now been amended to clarify that an "electronic mail message" is what delivers update information from a server non-email database to a remote non-email database.

Gehani teaches linking a geographic information server to a personal information manager (PIM) application, so that upon clicking a button on the PIM interface, information can be retrieved from the geographic information server and presented in the PIM application. But there is no suggestion in Gehani of using electronic mail to retrieve information from the geographic information server.

The examiner concedes that Gehani does not teach the use of electronic mail communication for updating and synchronizing, but the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Gehani to use electronic mail communication for that purpose:

Gehani discloses the claimed invention except for forming an electronic mail or text message. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to forming an electronic mail or text message since it was known in the art that text is the most commonly used format that is readable by humans and that electronic mail is the most convenient form of sending files and messages where a person may not be available and does not require a voice to leave the message.

Applicants agree with the examiner that electronic mail was well known in the art and that it was, and still is, the most commonly used format for sending messages readable by humans and the most convenient form of sending files and messages in situations when a person is not available to receive the message. If the claimed invention used electronic mail to send messages that were to be read by humans, the examiner's reasoning would have some validity. But, in fact, the messages of the claimed invention are computer-to-computer updates transferred between databases that are not generally read by humans. For that reason, the examiner's observation about electronic mail is actually a powerful reason why the use of electronic mail for such computer-to-computer data updates is not obvious. It would be more efficient to use conventional computer-to-computer transfer protocols (e.g., TCP/IP) to send the updates than to attempt to use a form of communication intended for human-to-human messaging.

Accordingly, claims 29, 30, and 31 are in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims are all properly dependent on one or more of the independent claims, and thus allowable therewith. Each of the dependent claims adds one or more further limitations that enhance patentability, but those limitations are not presently relied upon. For that reason, and not because applicants agree with the examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the examiner's reasons for rejecting the dependent claims.

Allowance of the application is requested.

An information disclosure statement and accompanying Form 1449 is being filed herewith to bring additional prior art to the examiner's attention..

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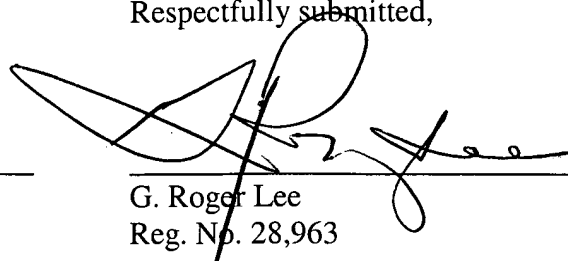
Attorney's Docket No.: 05110-014002

Enclosed is a \$210 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

5/4/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Roger Lee', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

G. Roger Lee
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